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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Jerome "Jerry" Zolobkowski, a 7th grade STEM teacher at AJHS, launches one of several student-designed "egg pods" from the school's roof.

7th graders explore complicated concepts with fun projects

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — Excitement builds among Jerome "Jerry" Zolobkowski's 7th-grade students. When he appears at the edge of the school's roof they will soon learn if the pods they designed and built will succeed or fail.

The big question: Will the eggs inside

the pods "survive" when dropped 30 feet to the pavement below?

Students Nil Patel and Mara Winer wait anxiously, then watch hopelessly as Zolobkowski releases their pod. The Styrofoam cup with two balloons attached plunges rapidly toward the ground. The balloon design fails to slow the pod's descent.

The pod hits the hard asphalt with a

loud splat. When Nil and Mara open it their worst fear is confirmed: the egg is a shattered mess.

Up on the roof, Zolobkowski, a 7th-grade STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teacher at Agawam Junior High School, prepares to launch another pod. This one uses a plastic shopping bag as a parachute. It lands noise-

Please see ENGINEERING, page 6

'Locals love you more'

Residents urged to shop small this Saturday

By Jennifer Wroblewski

Staff Writer

The day after Thanksgiving – commonly referred to as "Black Friday" – is known as the biggest shopping day of the year, when big-box stores mark down prices for those people looking to get a jump start on their holiday shopping lists. Over the last seven years, the Monday following Thanksgiving has become known as "Cyber Monday," during which savvy online shoppers can purchase goods and gifts online and avoid the hustle and bustle of the malls and crowded stores.

For some small, locally-owned business owners, it can be a challenge to lure in customers when there are so many deals and steals available at convenient shopping centers and especially, at their fingertips online during this time of year.

To help those businesses compete with big-box retailers and e-commerce, American Express started a nationwide advertising campaign in 2010, urging shoppers to patronize small businesses on "Small Business Saturday," the Saturday nestled between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and Agawam/Feeding Hills business owners hope to draw in members of their community to support the local economy.

Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Commons in the former Country Squire Furniture Shop on Main Street, said small business retail is important for a community like Agawam because for every \$1 spent in an independently owned business, 68 cents stays in the local economy, whereas only 43 cents of every \$1 spent in a chain stays local.

Please see LOCAL, page 7

Cops: Masked man robs CVS Pharmacy

By Jennifer Wroblewski

Staff Writer

AGAWAM — The CVS Pharmacy located on Silver Street was robbed last week when a masked man approached the pharmacy, claiming he had a gun, and demanding the pharmacist open the safe containing narcotics. The man – who did not brandish a weapon, said Agawam Detective Lt. Richard Light – then fled the scene with Oxycontin.

The incident happened around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15. No injuries were reported, said Light.

The robbery was still under investigation at presstime.

Barn inspections underway

By Sarah Platanitis

Turley Publications Correspondent

Fall is the time of year for farm owners to have their annual barn inspections. Not as complicated as barn owners may think, these yearly checks can be a big help for the coming months.

"I like to do inspections when owners are present because it gives me an opportunity to meet them, and get information like their exact address and phone number where we can reach them if there is an emergency," said Agawam Animal Control Officer Allison Strong.

Making contact with barn owners is important for Strong, especially since she doesn't have a master list. Instead, she must rely on folks to call and schedule inspections or do it the old-fashioned way: get out there and look.

"For the last few years, I've done my best, but I feel like I'm still missing people and that there are animals out there that are unaccounted for," she said. "It's the same case in most towns. Under emergency plan, it says

Please see BARN, page 9



Animal Control Officer Allison Strong visits Lenny Blews of Aspen Hill Farm in Feeding Hills for a state animal and barn inspection check recently.



RACHEL'S TABLE



Agawam Junior High students (on truck) Abigail Cunningham, Abigail Heinemann, Nate Humphries, Alyssa Gravel and (kneeling) Courtney Fallon, Bianca Toto are pictured with the donations for Rachel's Table.

By Bianca Toto and Lauren Lopez
Special to the Advertiser

Every day, a reported 16 million children in America struggle with hunger. Any time the body is deprived of vital liquids and nutrients from food, there are numerous physical side effects. These effects essentially happen because the body is trying to preserve energy for survival. There is a point when the symptoms can evolve into being irreversible and death can occur.

According to its website, "The mission of Rachel's Table is to distribute donated and specially purchased foods, without charge, to agencies feeding hungry families and individuals in greater Worcester, and to reduce the waste of

nourishing food." On Nov. 4, Rachel's Table hosted an event at the Big Y Supermarket in Longmeadow. People all over Western Mass participated in the food drive by donating healthy snacks that were purchased on the premises. At our school, the Agawam Junior High, Senora MacDonald helped organize three teams to take part in the fun. The challenge was to buy as many groceries as possible with a limited budget using coupons and silver/gold coins. We had to use our math skills, research the positive effects of health and wellness, and try our best to help others in our community. From this charity event, we realized that every contribution, no matter the size, can make a difference.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

If you're craving something other than Thanksgiving leftovers this weekend, this might be the place to go.

Last week's photo: Correctly guessing Stop and Shop on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills was Rick Parrott of Agawam.



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November 24 is
Small Business Saturday

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Mystery bird identified

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — Earlier this month, Feeding Hills resident and nature photographer Randy Ennis submitted to us a photograph of a bird that he asked our readers to identify.

Ennis, who typically identifies the species of animals he sends to *Agawam Advertiser News*, said he was having trouble with the bird, even using his Audubon guide.

In response to our request that readers send in their guesses, Agawam resident Tracy Nawskon and Feeding Hills resident Marie Mackin contacted us. Nawskon thought the bird looked like a Pike Siskin, while Mackin thought it might be a Pine Warbler. Both birds are members of the finch family and display heavy banding on their wings like the one we featured. But Ennis was skeptical because of the dark beak and the notched tail. This week, Agawam resident Frank Adamski emailed us to suggest the bird is an American goldfinch in winter plumage.

"I believe we have a winner," Ennis said when notified. "Some bird watcher I am. I was unaware that the American goldfinch's plumage changed so much in winter."



Turley Publications file photograph

Interestingly, Ennis said while looking into Adamski's guess, he found that Pine Siskins tend to flock together with goldfinches so the two are often seen together. "The other guesses were very close in coloration and plumage, but with just enough differences to show that they were different [birds], and the Pine Siskin guess could definitely come from the fact that the two are seen together," said Ennis. "Kudos to the reader. That was fun."

Regular School Committee meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Nov. 27 - 7 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular Meeting – 7 p.m.
5. Citizen's Speak Time
6. Highlights on Education:
 - a. M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Achievements to AHS Seniors Lauren Booth and Jeremy Kapinos
7. Superintendent's Notes
8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
9. Unfinished Business
 - a. SCR-12-28, Request to Approve Substitute Teacher Pay Rate Increase
10. Business Meeting:
 - a. Routine Matters
 - 1) Approval of minutes
 - 2) Calendar/ Correspondence
 - b. Warrants/Transfers
 - c. Reports:
 - 1). Scheduled Reports

* Financial Update – R. Clickstein

- * Personnel Update (paper report)
- 2). Subcommittee updates
 11. New Business:
 - a. SCR-12-29, Approval of use of Agawam Junior High School auditorium for music recital by "Music Speaks" on Dec. 16, 2012.
 12. Policy Review
 - a. Policy AC, Nondiscrimination, 1st reading
 - b. Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, 1st reading
 - c. Policy AC-R, Nondiscrimination Regulations, 1st reading
 - d. Policy GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity, 1st reading
 - e. Policy GCF, Professional Staff Hiring, 1st reading
 - f. Policy IMG-1, Animals in School, 1st reading
 - g. Policy JBA, Student-To-Student Harassment, 1st reading
 - h. Policy JIE-1, Pregnant Students, 1st reading
 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee.
 14. Adjournment

Six Flags submits permit to ZBA

Meeting set for Nov. 26

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Six Flags New England will bring an application for a special permit to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for the second time in 2012, seeking another height variance as they construct the new Bonzai Pipeline to add to their water park.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. submitted an application in September to Building Inspector Dominic Urbaniti for site plan approval and a special permit for the height.

The site plan was approved in October by the Agawam Planning Board, whose acting chairman, Mark Paleologopoulos, submitted a letter to the ZBA stating the board had approved the proposal at its Oct. 18 meeting.

Because there are no environmental concerns, Agawam Conservation Commission approval is not required. The application states that the proposed ride and work area to construct it are away from areas regulated by the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Massachusetts River Act.

The ZBA meeting, scheduled for Nov. 26 at 6:45 p.m., is the final step required for Six Flags to move forward with its new attraction.

According to the application, Six Flags is proposing to rework an existing graveled area of the park and allow for construction of the new ride.

The "pipeline" is a series of long and winding water slide tubes that would start at a height of about 65 feet. The total height of the attraction is 78 feet tall. Town code allows structures to be up to 45 feet or ap-

proval is required from the ZBA. The additional height from the standing platform for patrons is to provide a canopy for shading the platform.

The new ride will have six water slides and is a response to the park adding more "thrills," as when it created the Goliath ride, Six Flags Communications Manager Melissa Pinkerton said.

"The Goliath ride has been very popular and has given an added thrill to the park," Pinkerton said. "We wanted to offer that same 'thrill' in the water park."

She also said the ride would be an expansion of the water park and that no rides will be removed or taken away.

"Hurricane Harbor is the largest water park in New England," said Pinkerton. "This is a great way to make this attraction even bigger and attract more people to the park."

Patrons will also enjoy more seating, she said.

"We are going to add more lounge chairs and seating so people visiting the park will also have the opportunity to soak up the sun," said Pinkerton.

There is currently no official date for the ride to break ground. Pinkerton said it will depend on how long it will take for the final approvals to come through. The park is aiming to have to ride ready and open for Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the full opening of Hurricane Harbor.

According to documents currently available at the ZBA office, the police department has approved of the project, citing no safety risk. At presstime, the fire department had not submitted a recommendation.

Public input sought at upcoming council meeting

The public is invited to the Agawam City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 3 to provide comments regarding the Southwest Area Sewer Project. Submitted by Mayor Richard A. Cohen, TR-2012-47, a "Resolution Authorizing a Loan Order in the Amount

of \$10,469,500 for the construction of Phase II of the Southwest Area Sewer Project," is on the agenda and will likely be voted on at this meeting.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in the auditorium of the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main St.

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Presented at the Agawam Senior Center
954 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001

Monday, December 3, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

Presented by:
John G. Dee, President of Wealth Preservation Group, Inc.
Abbe W. McLane, Attorney at Law

Opinion

Winter's coming – hazard ahead

It's one month away. Winter officially arrives on Dec. 21, and as the season progresses, it will bring with it snow – that fluffy or heavy, slushy or icy white turned black stuff that is the delight of skiers or snowman makers but a headache and a hazard to drivers just trying to get from point A to point B.

What can we expect this winter? The National Weather Service (NWS) "Winter Outlook" predictor is leaving us in suspense about snowfall amounts this year, putting New England in the "equal chance category, meaning these areas have an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation."

While that's a completely mixed bag forecast, the NWS pinpoints one statistic that is enough to make your blood run winter cold – a whopping 70 percent of winter deaths related to ice and snow occur in automobiles.

Whatever Old Man Winter throws at us this year, the best thing you can do is to brush up on your winter driving skills and know that there are steps you can take to make for a safer passage for yourself and other drivers.

Before you even think about getting out on the road, first and foremost, clear your car of ice and snow! We've all suffered from drivers who missed this step. Snow from the roof and trunk blows up onto our windshields, blinding us in the process. There may not be a single flake falling from the sky, but you feel like you are in the middle of a blizzard when you're stuck behind a car covered in snow.

And for heaven's sake, practice patience. While it's just plain rude in any kind of weather, drivers who ignore stop signs, cut ahead or cut you off or tailgate are particularly menacing in winter weather. Don't be one of those drivers. Take it slow and always maintain that safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Giving thanks...



for what matters most.

DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

The American Red Cross offers additional tips for safe winter driving:

- Keep tuned to the radio for the latest road conditions
- Drive with your headlights on
- Keep all your windows clear of snow for visibility
- Remember that bridges and overpasses usually freeze before other roads. Use caution.
- Make sure you are buckled up

And don't forget to keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. In addition to

the basics, a fully charged cell phone, a flashlight, extra batteries and bottled water, the American Red Cross recommends that the following also be included in a winter emergency kit:

- Blankets or sleeping bags and some extra warm clothing
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- First aid kit and manual
- Non-perishable high-energy foods, such as granola bars
- Compass and road maps
- Shovel (there are lightweight, collaps-

ible models available)

- Tire repair kit and pump
- Flares and a tow rope
- Sack of sand or cat litter (for tire traction)

The experts may not be able to predict what's in store for us this winter season, but with some thought and planning, you'll be prepared for whatever comes our way!



Letters to the Editor

Scott Brown demonstrates class

To the editor:

On election night, I heard Sen. Scott Brown's concession speech to Senator-elect Elizabeth Warren and it was a class act.

The speech was proof why Democrats, Independents along with Republicans like and have much respect for Sen. Brown as a senator and as an honest, family man. Even when we heard booing when he was congratulating Warren for her win, he repeatedly told his full room of supporters, "No, no, no," not allowing this behavior.

Sen. Brown has proven to be not just a Republican senator for the Republican party only, but a senator for all of the parties. I hope all of our senators and our House members in Washington act the same way, cross party lines and put our country's best interests first when they vote on issues, instead of their own party's political interests.

They must work together with each other and the president. The president must work with both parties to make things happen. After all, he is the president for all of us -Democrats, Republicans and Independents. We are all Americans first.

Our country is going through very difficult economic times and we are

facing serious problems abroad, especially in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Libya. To solve these problems, we must be united, working together for a better future. The Obama slogan when he first was elected, "Yes, we can" should become a new slogan for both parties, "Together we can."

George Bitzas
Agawam

Thank you for the hospitality

To the editor:

A group of men, including myself, who are golfers in the Thursday morning league at the Agawam Country Club, want to express our sincere thanks to Bob and Candy Guerette, co-managers of Quail Run. They allow us to hold our Thursday morning breakfast meeting in their beautiful facility.

A friend of mine who was also a very good golfer is now a resident of Quail Run. After his wife passed on, he sold his home in West Springfield and after shopping around and comparing retirement communities, he chose to move into Quail Run. He is totally happy with his residence, the excellent meals they serve and the interesting activities they provide for their residents.

Again, we want to thank Bob and

Candy for their exceptional generosity and hospitality.

Warren L. Parker
Agawam

'Navigating the ABC's of Education' open to parents

As parents, we are to be our child's first teacher but what happens when they start school? What happens if they are struggling with the work? The processes of navigating education can be emotional, stressful and intimidating.

Barbara Connery, a retired member of Agawam Public Schools, will outline and discuss assistance programs as well as familiarize parents with educational terms/acronyms frequently used. Sponsored by the Agawam Family and Community Program, "Navigating the ABC's of Education," will be held Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Pheasant Hill Village Community Center, 25 Pheasant Hill Drive, Feeding Hills.

Parking is available in the lot behind the mailboxes or on the street.

Registration is not required. Contact Michelle Connery, Outreach Coordinator, at (413) 821-0597 or agawamfamilyandcommunityprog@yahoo.com with event questions.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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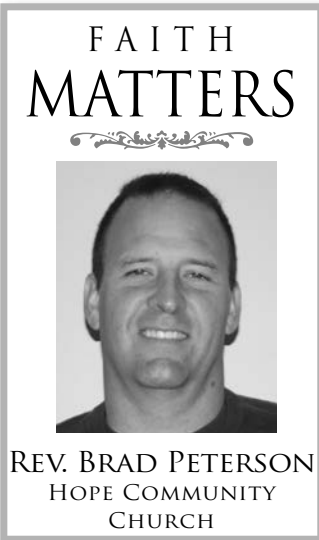
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Lost or found

Life is a journey. The problem is we don't know exactly where we are going. We have a general idea, but the directions aren't real specific. That means we can easily get lost and to make matters worse, we don't even know we are lost. So for many of us we are going along this trail of life thinking we are headed in the right direction. Because we don't know any different we are enjoying ourselves. We stop to take in the views, maybe even swim in a nice watering hole. We are in no rush because we think everything is the way it is supposed to be.

Since we think we are on the right path, we get offended when someone comes up to us and tells us we are lost. We don't think we are lost, so we label anyone who says we are as crazy or narrow-minded. In fact, we refuse any help from people who want to guide us to where we should be. For all we know we are where we should be and who are they to be telling us differently.

Consider how different our reaction is to someone offering help when we think we are lost. If you really feel lost then any help is accepted even if it's wrong. Directions to a lost person make them feel like they are on the right path. Truthfully, when we are lost we don't want to just feel like we are on the right path, we want to be on the right path.



Each of us is trying to determine if we are on the right path or not. We are trying to decide where we are supposed to be heading and if the current path we are on will actually get us there. Unfortunately, our vision is often limited by how far ahead we can see. We can't see the cliffs, pitfalls, green pastures or still waters ahead. It would be nice if there was someone who could see it all that could help us navigate what lies ahead and keep us on the right path.

God can see all and can also guide us. So we should look to Him to keep us moving in the right direction. But which god is the right god? There are so many to choose from. I believe in the Christian God. I say this because I am a Christian pastor, but also because I believe logic shows Him to be the only true god. Jesus was God with flesh on and that means He is the only god that has revealed himself to humans physically. If seeing is believing, then Jesus is the only god who has been seen. To top it off Jesus doesn't merely know the way in this world but also the world beyond as He died and rose from the dead. Jesus is the only God who has experienced life on earth, the after world and is still alive to tell us about it. There is no absolute certainty, but I believe Jesus is the best guide for my journey. Come to Hope Community Church some Sunday at 10 a.m. and see if Jesus is the right guide for you as well.

Doug Janik's in Germany

My oldest AHS yearbook is dated 1927 and has no name or title. The first page has "class of 1927" at the top. Twenty-four seniors are pictured. The class of 1924 is thought by many to be the first class to have graduated. By the early '80s, over 400 seniors got their diplomas and the AHS auditorium wasn't large enough to accommodate the graduates and their families. Classes got bigger when the Baby Boomers hit AHS so my class of 1963's 192 seniors was probably the last class under 200.

The class of 1948 had 80 seniors. Maybe you know a few - Don Demarais, Marion Hastings, Priscilla Orr. Some AHS students moved before their senior year. Joan (Allen) Cavallo and Robynn Stewart did that and are not in the '63 Sachem. Robynn graduated from Bethel High in Pennsylvania and Joan from Classical in Springfield. Some students leave for military service. Early '40s yearbooks have many more girls than boys, several Sachems honoring the boys who had enlisted without graduating.

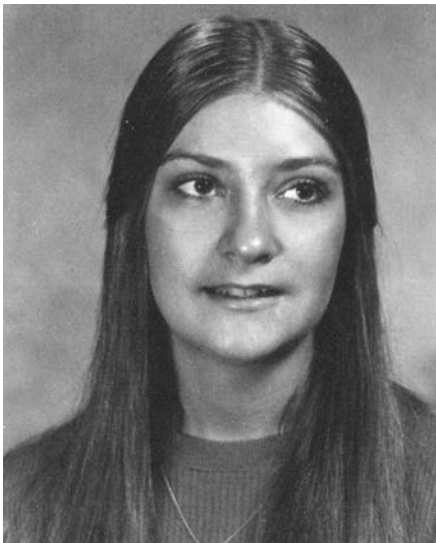
I tried to calculate how many students have attended AHS. For 1924-1948, I used 50 students per class as an average and added 10 percent for those who dropped out and came up with 1,320 students. For '49 to '63, I used 140 per year and got 2,310 after adding 10 percent. Continuing, I got 6,336 for 1964-1981 and 12,320 from the years 1982 to 2012. Adding another 1,000 for our present undergrads gave me a total of 23,266 boys and girls. Since about half were boys, that means over 10,000 boys have attended AHS.

Only one former Brownie has made it to the NHL in hockey. That is Doug Janik. Doug played for the Jr. Pics while he was an AHS freshman. Then he played for the Jr. Whalers for two years. His senior year, Doug lived in Ann Arbor, Mich. so he could play on the U.S. National team. After high school he played at the University of Maine as a defenseman, helping them win the national championship in his freshman year.

After Maine, Doug played for several NHL teams, his longest stint being his two years with Tampa Bay and his latest stint being with the Detroit Red Wings. Most NHL fans have wondered where their favorite players are while the NHL players are in a lockout, so naturally I called Doug's parents (Doug Sr. and his wife Ellen (Beauchane, both 1973s.) They told me that their son is playing under a one-year contract for the Mannheim Eagles in Germany. Doug Sr. and Ellen just returned from Germany after spending time with Doug, his wife, and their son Douglas John Janik III, who is seven months old.



Doug Janik



Ellen (Beauchane) Janik

EDITOR'S NOTE: Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



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Students 'fall' for engineering

ENGINEERING, from page 1

lessly – and there are no cracks or breaks in the egg.

Pod after pod falls from the roof. Some student teams are disappointed that their designs didn't protect the egg. Others are elated – jumping with joy and high-fiving – when their egg “survives.” However, it's not the final outcome that matters as much as the learning process itself.

“I felt hopeless as I watched our pod fall,” said Nil. Now back in the classroom, he and Mara calculate various measurements and analyze such factors as velocity, acceleration, momentum, and force.

“We had too high a velocity – our balloons didn't slow the descent enough and the pod fell too fast. The plastic bag parachutes worked better than ours did,” he added.

Mara, said she was “discouraged” because they didn't succeed in the final drop. “I'm happy we made it to the roof drop. Our prototype designs worked well when we tested them in the stairwell and from the ceiling. We thought our egg would survive the roof drop.”

Applying science, math skills

Mara and Nil were among the first group of AJHS students to tackle the challenges of a new 7th grade STEM course taught by Zolobkowski in his first year teaching at AJHS.

He will work with about 100 students in four different classes during each grading quarter to teach them how to utilize the engineering design process. They will apply science and math skills by designing and building several class projects.

With the egg-drop project, students explored the design process and the physics of falling objects. “The objective is to design and build a pod/craft that will protect a large chicken egg from a fall of various heights onto a hard and unforgiving surface,” said Zolobkowski.

Students had a budget of \$100 in STEM money to shop at a “store” set up in Zolobkowski's classroom. They could “purchase” various, but useful, “building” materials – such as cups, pipe cleaners, coat hangers, plastic knives and forks, packing peanuts, cardboard tubes, and pieces of sheet metal.

Working in teams, students brainstormed as they designed and built their own original egg pods. No kits or pre-made designs could be used. Students were required to make detailed design drawings and include a list of materials so teams could estimate the “cost” of their pods before purchasing materials to start building prototypes.

Testing, redesigning

After teams built their prototypes, they



AJHS students Lauren Shea and Devin Broussard can't contain their excitement after discovering the egg inside a pod they designed survived a 30-foot fall from the school's rooftop.

broken eggs after the tests went back to the drawing board to redesign their pods. If the egg survived the first drop, a team qualified for a drop from a higher distance.

“Initially, students determined the mass, volume, and density of their pods by using a balance scale and metric rulers,” said Zolobkowski. “On the day of the drops, they calculated the velocity, the momentum, and the force of their pods as they fell and crashed onto the ground.”

Zolobkowski said his STEM course provides students with hands-on engineering design process activities. His goal is to teach students how to explain the relationship and effect of mass, velocity, momentum, and force based on how their pods performed. The course is also designed to close an important learning gap among students in STEM subjects (see sidebar story).

Fun projects teach important skills

“We start off with a fun challenge to design and build a sail for a paper boat on runners that will be powered by a fan. We then do a project where students design and build an 18-inch structure out of common items that can support the load of a tennis ball and the force of a blowing fan.”

The egg drop was the final project of the grading quarter that ended the first full week of November. The new quarter began the following week, and a new group of students entered Zolobkowski's classroom. By the end of June, all 350 of AJHS 7th graders will have taken the course.

Zolobkowski didn't invent the “egg drop” project – it's been used for years by science teachers – but he applied his own variations when he started teaching the project about five years ago. He also incorporated the engineering design process – the foundation of STEM.

“The engineering process is similar to the scientific method as a way to solve problems, to think about the world, and to find solutions. STEM promotes problem solving and teamwork – essential skills for any student in school and in life. STEM also helps students who are struggling with science and math see the connection to real-life problems. This in turn helps many students master skills they may have trouble learning,” Zolobkowski said.

He said students learn that most problems can be solved using critical thinking, problem solving, and the application of math. “They can apply these skills to just about anything that they may encounter later in life.”

Students excited about class

The STEM course offers students a chance to not only work with their hands, but also to design and build something that they come up with in their imagination. “This allows me to sneak in the vegetables – math and science – by making the learning fun. It's also very empowering as a teacher to see students excited about coming to class.”

Kaitlyn Connery said she enjoyed working on the projects and learning some new skills at the same time. “It was fun. It also helped me to learn how to use the metric system as well as to have a better understanding of the engineering process. Now I look at things differently – like seeing a bridge and wondering how much weight it was designed to hold.”

Karlamichelle Alvarado said she liked learning about the design process. “We designed, built and tested our pods. Then we redesigned them again after the tests. I enjoyed doing this. I like to see how things work and how something succeeds or fails because of its design.”

Joey Allivato hopes to be a motorcycle engineer one day. He likes math and science. “I didn't think I would like building things, but we did a lot of projects that used math and science. We learned some important skills that other classes don't provide.”

Zolobkowski said the positive reaction to the egg drop by his first group of students



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

(From left) Mara Winer, Danielle Murray, Sarah Newsome, and Nil Patel calculate various measurements and analyze such factors as velocity, acceleration, momentum, and forces after observing their egg pod fall from the school's roof.

in the new course is one reason he hopes to make it a fixture of the school's STEM program.

“I want to have students talk about it and look forward to it for years to come. Inqui-

ry-based, fun activities like this are what we need to help students understand complicated science and math concepts and help promote future engineers.”

STEM course gives students a new zest for learning



Turley Publication photos by Mike Lydick

Dakota Haupt (left) and Joey Allivato “shop” for materials they can use to build an egg pod in a new 7th grade STEM course at AJHS. Students used common, everyday household items that they “purchase” from a “store” in their classroom.

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — Jerome “Jerry” Zolobkowski's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) course at AJHS is more than just a fun course where students work on projects. It also serves as a support structure for many of the core subjects students take, like math, science, and technology.

The course is aligned with state standards for technology/engineering in grades six through eight that are used by the AJHS teaching team in the technology/engineering/STEM department. Zolobkowski's role as a STEM teacher is to cover the engineering design process, materials, and transportation.

While this is his first year teaching in Agawam, Zolobkowski has 11 years of experience teaching science to students

of various ages. Most recently, he taught physical science in the Spencer-East Brookfield school system.

“My background is science, but there's a fair amount of math used in science. STEM covers engineering and technology, as well as science and math, so I'm pushing in science and math concepts continually.”

Increasing students' real-world skills

AJHS Principal Norman Robbins said the STEM position Zolobkowski holds was created when a family consumer science teacher retired last spring. That retirement created an opportunity for AJHS to create a class that fills a growing need – increase student understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as it relates to real-world application.

“We saw a repeated pattern of students

Please see STEM, page 7

tested them. Teams that had damaged or
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Residents urged to shop small this Saturday

LOCAL, from page 1

“And if you buy online, zero stays in the local economy,” she said, adding, “The locally-owned businesses are the backbone of the community; it’s the glue that holds the community together.”

Part of that, she said, stems from the services you get from independent shops. “Personal shopping services are not something you’re going to find at the mall,” Gourde said.

Cooper’s Commons, she said, provides locals with one-stop shopping this holiday season. Find the perfect holiday gift at Cooper’s Gifts and Curtains or pick up fresh holiday wreaths and decorations at Floral Concepts by Tom. For that special somebody, gift certificates are available from Shear Techniques, which offers family hair care services, or The Skin Salon, which offers other spa services, such as nails, organic skin care and waxing. Knots Kneaded Massage offers massage and Reiki, while LHQ Danceforce provides dance lessons for children and adults.

Shoppers can even stop to enjoy a cup of coffee at Squire’s Bistro, which offers complimentary Wi-Fi, and an ever-changing seasonal lunch and dinner menu. The Blue Goose Cupcakery, within the Bistro, serves gourmet treats.

Looking for a gift for a new baby? Sweet September Baby and Children’s Boutique has a unique selection of clothing and gifts available. Likewise, the newly opened Chasam Boutique features jewelry, sunglasses and other accessories for teens.

“Coopers Commons is your one-stop holiday shopping destination. From soup to nuts, we have you covered,” Gourde said, adding, “You can even get the tree.”

This holiday season, she said, a fresh Christmas tree lot

will be open for shoppers to browse.

“Everybody here adds another dimension, another layer, to what we have to offer as a destination,” Gourde explained.

“It strengthens Agawam every time people shop in Agawam. ‘Locals love you more,’” she said, citing a tagline from 3/50 Project, a grassroots organization started to spread the word about the importance of shopping local.

“[Small Business Saturday] gives back to the community,” said Laura Albano, owner of Hidden Treasures on Main Street in Agawam.

Albano, who opened her shop behind Main Street Deli nearly two years ago, said everything she sells is made in the United States by local crafters and artisans. Roughly 98 percent of the 80 vendors in Hidden Treasures are from New England, which means customers who shop there are purchasing unique items that are not created in factories overseas, but “made from the heart.”

She is just one of the many small, local retailers who are celebrating Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24 with special promotions and a promise that customers will find the perfect gift for their loved ones.

“Basically, you can find something for everybody,” said Albano, who will offer a special jewelry trunk show by one of her Connecticut-based vendors during Small Business Saturday. Customers who purchase jewelry – at 10 percent off – from Jewelry by Roxy will be entered to win a raffle prize, said Albano.

Small Business Saturday takes place this Saturday, Nov. 24 throughout Agawam and nationwide. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/smallbusinesssaturday.

Boldyga supports Small Business Weekend

BOSTON- State Rep. Nicholas A. Boldyga (R-Southwick), a member of the Small Business Caucus, is reminding small business owners and shoppers in Agawam, Southwick, Russell and Granville that the first Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving was recently declared Small Business Weekend in Massachusetts.

The purpose of Small Business Weekend is to recognize the important economic role that small businesses play in our communities. Not only do locally owned small businesses tend to employ people in town, but for every \$100 spent with locally owned, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through local taxes, payroll, and other expenditures.

“If we want to ensure people have jobs, we need to support our local businesses and encourage people to shop locally. Promoting Small Business Weekend will remind people how vital small business is to our state’s economy,” said Boldyga.

“The small business community is the backbone of our economy. Three out of every four new jobs in Massachusetts are created by small business. Encouraging participation in Small Business Weekend will give local shops in Agawam, Southwick, Russell and Granville a boost during the holiday shopping season.”

In 2011 the first-ever Small Business Caucus at the State House was started in order to create a more business friendly climate in the Commonwealth. The caucus has been working with legislative members and industry experts on issues such as mandates, regulations, the high cost of health insurance and the tax burden.

Agawam Rotary to meet Nov. 28

The Agawam Rotary Club will meet Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Storowton Tavern at 12:15 p.m. for lunch. Featured guests will be Rick and Elin Lawrence, District 7890 Water Project chairpersons, who will host a multimedia presentation regarding current and past district water projects.

For information on the Agawam Rotary, visit www.agawamrotary.org. The Agawam Rotary is a proud member of Rotary International.

As Rotarians, they sponsor local scholarships and charities and raise money for local, national, and international service projects, including the worldwide elimination of Polio and providing clean drinking water. For more information on Rotary International, visit www.rotary.org.

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STEM, from page 6

scoring flat on that section of the MCAS and realized that the science and mathematics teachers’ curriculum is so demanding that they were struggling just to teach everything required to prepare students for the next grade level. Basically, there was too much curricula and not enough time.”

Robbins said because several AJHS teachers retired last spring – both in science and other classes – he kept in mind not only the need to hire science and math teachers, but also the need to find a teacher for the STEM class.

“When Jerry interviewed for the STEM position, he immediately grasped what we are trying to accomplish with the program – both short-term and long-term – and he came with some outstanding activities that have become a solid foundation and starting point for the program.”

He added that AJHS was “very lucky” to have Zolobkowski join the teaching staff. “His interest, enthusiasm, and zest for learning with students are outstanding. He definitely has all the skills and insights necessary to take this program and advance it over time.”

Robbins said Zolobkowski’s STEM course has had to start small and be creative in relation to budget, supplies, and classroom size. Some of the established STEM programs that the school had considered were too expensive to implement. He praised Zolobkowski for being “extremely inventive” in getting students to find every day household items that can be reused at a minimal cost.

Aligned with state standards

Zolobkowski said at the beginning of the school year he met with 7th grade science and math teachers to find out what the students would be learning throughout the year so he could align his projects with some of the same concepts his colleagues teach.

“This allows me to expose students to the same concepts, but in a different light and context. It also helps me to clear up any confusion or fear many of kids might have about the course.”

Zolobkowski and Robbins said STEM ties student learning to the 21st century world where students will be expected to work cooperatively to solve complex problems once they enter the workforce. STEM also prepares students to be innovative and resourceful when approaching a problem while helping them realize that thinking critically in a group setting spurs the best answer in the most efficient means possible.

“Today, businesses compete and complete projects from all around the world simultaneously,” said Robbins. “Technology now allows us to visualize, design, share, and group-think without having to be in the same room, same building, same country or even the same continent. It’s this application of knowledge that powers programs such as STEM and allows students to develop the critical skills needed to solve problems that don’t even exist today.”

Closing the learning gap

Zolobkowski, who has a master’s in science education from Hofstra University and a bachelor of science in geology from Hobart College, said he’s thrilled to be teaching



Jerry Zolobkowski explains the relationship and effect of mass, velocity, momentum, and force to students Nicholas Casamento, and Caleigh Croteau.

at AJHS. “This is the perfect position for me. I get to teach science and engineering concepts in a fun way to solve problems with my students every day.”

He added that Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli and Robbins are “extremely supportive” of engineering and technology education, which is what STEM is categorized under.

Robbins said he has already had lots of positive feedback about the STEM course from parents and students.

“Students enjoy the projects proposed by Jerry and are eager to meet the challenges set forth,” Robbins said. “Our staff has also been supportive of the program.”

The principal added that he hopes to continue to expand the STEM program and increase the funding for more projects in the future. “I’m confident that with Jerry’s input – as well as the input and support from the math, science and technology education departments -- this program will help close the learning gap for our students and help prepare them for 21st century needs.”

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Seniors

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



Turley Publications file photo

On Friday, Nov. 2 the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center held its annual Veteran's Day dinner in honor of all veterans. Pictured here (from left) are veteran Richard DelBarba, battalion, SeaBees MCB4, stationed in Guantanamo Bay; Army Korean War veteran John Rolandini, Navy Vietnam War veteran Bill Washburn and Navy Korean War veteran J. Emile Coté.

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Nov. 26: 8 a.m., Friends Mohegan Sun Trip; 8:15 a.m., Weight Training, Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna.

Tuesday, Nov. 27: 9 a.m., S.H.I.N.E. (by appt.); Knitting Club, Sewing Class, Exercise; 10 a.m., PACE chair exercise; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Movie ("Radio City Christmas Spectacular"), Mah Jongg; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginners Line Dancing; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: 8:15 a.m., Yoga, Weight Training; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Chapter I Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna.

Thursday, Nov. 29: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch; 1:30 p.m., Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band

Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Nov. 30: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 9:30 a.m., Hand and Foot Card Game; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna.

Lunch menu

Monday, Nov. 26: Smoked ham and scalloped potato bake, broccoli, bananas.

Tuesday, Nov. 27: Tortellini soup, grilled chicken on a roll, lettuce and tomato, stewed prunes.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: Shepard's pie, beet salad, Jell-O.

Thursday, Nov. 29: Taco salad with Spanish rice, beans, tomato and onion, taco chips, baked good.

Friday, Nov. 30: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, spinach, pudding.

Pasta supper to benefit 'Jody's Journey'

A pasta supper benefit, in honor of Jody Seldomridge will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. Tickets are \$20 per person.

On Jan. 5, Seldomridge was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer and underwent surgery for a double mastectomy. Following surgery, she went through four months of aggressive chemotherapy and six weeks of extensive radiation.

Due to her treatments, Seldomridge had to leave her position at the Roberta G. Doering School and learn how to take her days a bit slower, as well as stay out of crowded environments due to a compromised immune system from her treatment. Through all the highs and lows, she has been able to keep her sense of humor and shining personality.

Gift baskets as well as items to be put in them, will be

accepted to be raffled off at the benefit. Direct donations to "Jody's Journey" may be mailed to United Bank, 806 Suffolk St., Agawam, MA 01001 c/o Lori Stickles.

For information on tickets, contact Rick Seldomridge at (413) 335-7610 or stop by Granny's Place, 844 Main St. Agawam.

For information on basket donations or gifts to be raffled, including gas cards, movie tickets, gift cards, etc., contact Elizabeth at (413) 219-6109.

Tickets on sale for Joey Calise benefit

A benefit for Joey Calise, of Agawam, who is battling cancer, will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 from noon to 8 p.m. at American Legion Post 452, 37 Exchange St., Chicopee. Tickets are \$20 for one, two for \$35 and will include a DJ, buffet and a cash bar.

For more information and to reserve tickets, call 786-1619.

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Public Safety

SWORN INTO DUTY...



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Agawam Fire Lt. John Labrecque (second from right) was sworn in during a ceremony at Agawam Town Hall Tuesday, Nov. 13. Pictured with Labrecque are (from left) fire Chief Alan Sirois, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, and Town Clerk Richard Theroux.



Agawam Firefighter Bernard J. 'B.J.' Calvi was sworn in as deputy fire chief for the town of Agawam at a ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 13. The swearing in took place at Agawam Town Hall. Pictured (from left) are Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Calvi, and Town Clerk Richard Theroux.



Joel Dobek Barlor, second from right, was sworn in as a member of the Agawam Call Fire Department at Agawam Town Hall, Tuesday, Nov. 13.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 266 calls from Nov. 13 to Nov. 19. The department made two arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Jamel Davis, 28, of 18 Carver St., Apt. 2nd floor, Springfield, was arrested on charges of speeding; operating an unregistered motor vehicle trailer; unlicensed motor vehicle; and operating a motor vehicle with license suspended.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Stephanie L. Gay, 20, of 25 Sharon Lane, Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of possession of Class A drug.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department incident log for the week of Nov. 13 to Nov. 19 was unavailable at presstime due to early deadline.

Barn inspections underway

BARN, from page 1

‘See Animal Control Officer’ and we want to be able to get the help we need if something happens.”

Barn inspections give state animal control officers, located in every city and town across the Commonwealth, a clear idea of the types of animals are in an area, and their numbers, so that officials can get help from the state’s Department of Agricultural Resources when necessary.

“I’m not there to enforce any of our local ordinances when I’m there as the state animal inspector. I’m not trying to invade anyone’s property, privacy or get information to tax you. I think that’s where people get concerned and why they don’t want to make that contact,” said Strong. “Someone isn’t going to get in trouble because they don’t have five acres for the pony in their backyard. I would rather know that pony is there and be able to get someone help if they need it than not know and have something happen to that poor pony.”

That something could be a man-made, biohazard, or natural disaster. After the June 2011 tornado, animal control officers were able to contact Massachusetts Agricultural Resources and get help to assist farm owners with animals that were frightened, injured or dead.

When Strong is at a property as state animal inspector, she’s not there to say, for instance, that chickens aren’t supposed to be there. She’s there to see if those chickens are healthy and to share how to get them tested by the state each year.

“We are allowed on a property if the owner is not present but I’d much rather have the owner there and able to say where they keep their feed and dispose of the manure rather than me trying to find it,” said Strong.

Inspections help make sure that barns are clean, safe and that animals are well. It’s also a way to share means to meet compliances for state laws as well as raise awareness about rabies and viruses such as West Nile, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Swine Flu.

“Everyone looks at Officer Strong’s job as the dog catcher job but it’s not. There’s a lot of livestock that goes with it and it’s a very good avenue to give and receive knowledge,” said Lenny Blews, owner of Aspen Hill Farm in Feeding Hills. “If you do your job, you do it right and take care of your farm. My biggest thing when she comes around is to ask what other people are doing. Is there something they’re doing that I can learn from? How can I make mine better? People get worried about barn inspections but I look at it as a way to help me.”



Barn inspections benefit the health and well-being of livestock like Jenny the miniature donkey from Aspen Hill Farm.

Across the state, barn inspectors are very careful when they go out to do the inspections because of the likelihood of spreading disease if something was present. They wear disposable booties that are disposed of on-premise and take disinfection measures after each visit. They will also never touch or handle animals in any way.

“We need to observe them from what we call ‘reasonable distance.’ We don’t want to be too close in case there is a problem but we need to be able to be close enough to spot a problem if there is one,” said Strong, noting two rabies cases in Agawam last year.

Once state inspection booklets are issued each fall, barn inspections start and must be reported back by Jan. 1. It’s a short period of time, especially for towns that have lots of farms. Strong wishes it could be done in warmer weather but she’ll take frozen mud over puddles any day.

To learn more about barn inspections or to schedule an inspection of your own, call Strong’s direct line at 726-9754. For any fowl owner wanting to take advantage of free testing for flocks, contact Michael Cahill, Director of Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources at 617-626-1794.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement- Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

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Weekdays Noon-Dusk ~ Weekends 8am-Dusk



Emily Grace Provost

August 16, 2012

Parents: Joe & Jacki Provost of Three Rivers
Grandparents: John & Katherine Provost of Palmer
Susan Taylor of Palmer
Neil Coyer of Three Rivers

baby's first
Christmas



Show off the newest member of your family!

On Thursday, December 20th
The Agawam Advertiser News will dedicate
a special section to all babies born in 2012.

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Send form with a check or money order for \$15. (Scanning and processing fee.)

Make out to: THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish the photo to be returned. (Cash is accepted at the office, please DO NOT mail cash.)

Deadline for photos & forms is Friday, Nov. 30th.

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In the Classroom

FLL qualifying tournament set for Dec. 8



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Students from Agawam High School team Rosie Robotics recently attended a referee training session in preparation for the upcoming FLL tournament.

Agawam Robotics Education Association (AREA) will host the 5th annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Agawam Qualifying Tournament / JrFLL Expo Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Agawam Junior High School.

Weeks of hard work will culminate at high-energy, sports-like tournaments where teams of children, coaches and mentors will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship, and sense of community. Among the participants are Agawam teams from the Junior High School, Roberta G. Doering School, Granger School, Phelps School, Clark School and Robinson Park School along with teams from other local areas in Massachusetts. This event is free and the public is invited to check out what a robotics competition is like and to cheer on your school's team.

FIRST LEGO League is an international program for children, ages 9 to 14, created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Company. Each September, FLL announces the annual challenge, which engages the teams in hands-on robotics design and authentic scientific research. This season, the "Senior Solutions" challenge is asking the

teams to improve the quality of life for senior citizens by helping them continue to be independent, engaged, and connected in their communities. In the 2012 Senior Solutions Challenge, over 200,000 children from more than 60 countries will explore the topic of aging and how it may affect a person's ability to maintain his or her lifestyle; solving issues like getting around, keeping in touch, or simply staying fit. Teams will research obstacles and then suggest ways to improve the quality of life for the seniors affected. Teams will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO Mindstorms technology to solve a set of missions on an obstacle course.

The competition is judged in three main categories: Project, Robot, and Core Values. Teams with highest overall performance will advance to the Massachusetts State Championship Tournament, which will take place in Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Dec. 15. The highest honor will then go to one team from Massachusetts, which will have the opportunity to participate at the FIRST World Festival at the America's Center and Edward Jones Dome Convention Plaza in St. Louis, Mo., April 24-27.

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL
The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Monday, Nov. 26: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Nov. 27: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, fresh orange wedges, juice cups.
Wednesday, Nov. 28: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, dinner roll, California mix vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Nov. 29: Whole-grain cheese quesadilla pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Nov. 30: Burger on a roll with lettuce and tomatoes, baked French fries, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL
Monday, Nov. 26: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Nov. 27: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, fresh orange wedges, juice cups.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, dinner roll, California mix vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Nov. 29: Whole-grain cheese quesadilla pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Nov. 30: Burger on a roll with lettuce and tomatoes, baked French fries, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Monday, Nov. 26: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Nov. 27: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, fresh orange wedges, juice cups.
Wednesday, Nov. 28: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, dinner roll, California mix vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Nov. 29: Whole-grain cheese quesadilla pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Nov. 30: Burger on a roll with lettuce and tomatoes, baked French fries, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.



Holiday Happenings



A way to give teachers gifts that have meaning

Now that it is November, I sort my mail into three piles: bills, catalogs, and charities. In my house, we are most excited about the charity pile.

A few years back, when I was downright sick of the materialism of Christmas, I decided I was not going to purchase the traditional gifts for my son's teachers. After all, if you have taught for 20 years, imagine how many "Greatest Teacher" plaques you have received or "Best Teacher" mugs. But the people who work with my son every day, who coach him, who correct his homework, who inspire him, deserve to be remembered at holiday time.

So I polled some of my friends. One said she bakes up a platter of holiday goodies and her son delivers them to each teacher the week before winter break. Another said she does some sort of gift certificate along a theme, such as movie tickets or a Barnes and Noble gift card. And while I like both of those ideas, one is costly in terms of time and the other in terms of cash. My son has six teachers, a coach and assistant coach, administrators, well, you get the picture. So we decided to honor his teachers by donating in their name to a charity that we choose. So each night, my son, who rarely gets any mail, comes home to the charity pile stacked up at his place at our kitchen table.

The first year we did this, Heifer International won. Heifer gives those around the world a hand up rather than a hand out. We donated \$10 for each person and we were sent a beautiful gift card that my son gave to his teachers just before the holidays. Several remarked that this was one of their favorite charities and that they felt honored that he made a donation in their name. Some of them had done work with Heifer while in the Peace Corps. Heifer provides animals, among other things, to those struggling, often in very poor regions of our world. The animal, be it a cow or chicken, allows the family to have food and then to pass on the animal's offspring to another family. This ensures that the gift keeps helping more than one family.

Last year my son chose Kiva as his charity of choice, largely because it allows the recipient to choose who gets the donation. Kiva is a charity that provides loans to entrepreneurs trying to make a living and make their way out of poverty. Again, our family received compliments about this choice, with one teacher remarking that he sat down with his 7-year-old and together they chose their donor. He thanked my son for opening

up an entire charitable experience for him and his daughter.

So now this year, many of the charitable solicitations are being sent directly to my son with his name on the envelope.

He feels like this is his thing to do for his teachers. I do nudge him along, reminding him that we need to donate before Thanksgiving to get back the acknowledgements to give out before the school breaks for winter. Because my son traveled to India this past year and came in contact with such extremely poor living conditions, he has decided to order holiday ornaments that were made by people in India. He will include a card that explains to his teachers why he chose this donation and ornament. So while they are getting an actual gift this year, it is unique enough that I don't think there will be duplicates. And again, it is given with genuineness because it was chosen by their student and not their student's parents!

As we round the bend towards holiday time of giving and getting, of gratitude and grace, I hope we can all sift through the commercialism and find meaningful gifts that the recipient will enjoy and also will help others in a way that has meaning.

Carol LaLiberte is a columnist for Turley Publications, Inc., publisher of Agawam Advertiser News.

GUEST COLUMN

Carol LaLiberte

Community Grange to host bazaar

Community Grange 382, of Feeding Hills, will hold a holiday bazaar Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West St.. Members of the Grange have been busy making gift items, ornaments, wreaths and much more.

The bake sale will be bigger and better and will include homemade baked beans. Paws-a-tively Delectable will sell all natural dog treats, bandanas and gift items. Tastefully Simple will also be available.

All proceeds will benefit the building fund and the public is invited to attend. Contributions of non-perishable items will be collected for the Open Pantry.

For more information, call Pauline at 789-2061.

'HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS'



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Performers Christine Greene and Ben Ashley are part of the cast of "Home for the Holidays 2012," the Majestic Theater's annual holiday variety show, which takes place Dec. 18-23 at the West Springfield theater. Tickets are \$19 and \$21 for adults, and \$10 for children under 12. To purchase tickets, call (413) 747-7797. For more information, visit www.majestictheater.com.

Tickets on sale for Dan Kane concert

The Music Committee of the Agawam Congregational Church will host "A Christmas Celebration in Song featuring Dan Kane and Friends," Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 6, are available at the church office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until noon and at the door the day of the show.

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November 24 is Small Business Saturday



A ‘FRIEND’-LY THANKSGIVING



Pat Murphy receives the coveted Andrew Gallano award for her hard work and dedication. She also received a certificate from the state House of Representatives presented by state Rep. Nicholas Boldgya, R-Southwick.



Friends gather here. State Rep. Nicholas Boldgya, Mayor Richard A. Cohen and City Councilor George Bitzas enjoy dinner and laughs together.



Joan Linnehan delivers the desserts, which were quickly “gobbled” up.

On Friday Nov. 16, the Friends of the Agawam Senior center held their annual Thanksgiving dinner. Complete with turkey, raffles and awards, the event featured a total of 256 people.



When asked what their favorite part of the Thanksgiving company.”



The fall feeling filled the room.



er and great welcome makes a merry feast.” - William Shakespeare



Turley Publications photos by
Connie J. Casagrande

nnner was Bernice Burton, Jane Nunn, and Rita Matys replied, “The



Friends in the “House” are good friends indeed. J. Emile Coté received a certificate from state Rep. Nicholas Boldgya for his dedication to the Senior Center.



Mary Dagle was the proud recipient of the Friendship Award.



The Jim Griffin award was presented to J. Emile Coté from Mayor Richard A. Cohen.



Without Sue, Maria and Carol, the dinner would not be possible.



SPORTS

Cronin heading to Bryant

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Carly Cronin has been a three-sport athlete at Wilbraham & Monson Academy since she set foot on campus in 2009. She began in the fall of that year with soccer, then played basketball in the winter and finished off in spring with lacrosse. She is about to take her next step as she has made her decision for college. Carly will attend Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I., as a lacrosse player.

Cronin, of Agawam had been contacted by as many as 60 schools and narrowed her field down to Holy Cross, Bentley, Skidmore, Fairfield, Bowdoin and Brown, before ultimately decided upon Bryant.

“When I saw the campus, I just fell in love with it,” Cronin said. “I like the way they do things with their lacrosse team and I see this as a great match for me I am looking forward to beginning a new chapter.”

The irony is that when Carly came to Wilbraham & Monson, soccer was the driving force. That is what she was recruited for. It was a sport that she had played since she was 9 years old and as a freshman, she started for the team, as a forward. Basketball and lacrosse have always been of interest, she started playing organized basketball in third grade and was also a starter as a freshman in that sport. On the basketball, team, Cronin played point guard. Lacrosse has been another story. She has played lacrosse for quite some time, but the youth opportunities for that sport are somewhat limited. She did manage to join LaxPlus and played as much

as she could. At Wilbraham & Monson, she was able to take that to another level and she played midfield defense.

When Cronin started out, the lacrosse program was fairly new and most of the girls who were on the team had never played before. As a result, Cronin immediately assumed a leadership role. That first year was one of team building. The sophomore season was better than the first. The team now had some experience as was more competitive with its competition.

Cronin’s junior year is when they took a big step, as did she. Caroline Burke took over as head coach and relied on Cronin to be one of the leaders, even though she was not a captain.

“Carly leads by example and as such, is a great role model, not only for the newer kids, but even the more experienced players,” Burke said. “When I got here, she was already a leader on the team and it was easy to see why. I went with that.”

The team improved greatly in that third year, playing up to some of its most difficult opponents such as Williston and Suffield. Their games were now competitive, unlike the first two years. There is great optimism that Wilbraham & Monson can improve in the spring like it has over the past two years.

Before Cronin came to Wilbraham, staying in Agawam, her hometown was still under major consideration. It was a big decision to leave, but it has all worked out for her. At home are her mother Gina and father, Tom. Her sister Katie

Please see CRONIN, page 16



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

WMA’s Carly Cronin signed a National Letter of Intent to play women’s lacrosse at Bryant University.

Lady Brownies finish off solid campaign

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The season for the Agawam girls soccer team ended similar to how it ended last year, just a bit earlier.

Agawam fell 3-0 against East Longmeadow on Nov. 6 in the quarterfinals of the Division 1 Tournament.

Agawam lost to the Spartans in the semifinals last year at Elms College, and found themselves with a similar problem to last season, no solution for East Longmeadow standout Dani White.

White would score two goals in the victory. Victoria Dutille also had a goal as East Longmeadow took a 1-0 lead to halftime, keeping Agawam in the game. The Brownies played strong in a tournament game for the second straight year, but the Spartans would continue to come out on top.

Anne Stack had the shutout with seven saves to pick up the shutout for East Longmeadow. Alexa Smith allowed three goals and made 11 saves. The Spartans would go on to lose in the semifinals against Pittsfield.

Agawam reached the quarterfinals with a win two nights earlier against Chicopee Comp.

Agawam nearly did not qualify for the tournament due to the hurricane preventing their final regular season game with Amherst, but a win on Oct. 30 propelled them into second place in their league and they were able to secure the No. 8 seed in the tournament.

Riley Hellstein and Morgan Casey scored the goals for the Brownies as they pressured the Comp goal all night. But Agawam also got a great performance from their own goalkeeper Smith.

Hellstein got the scoring started in the second half when she scored about six minutes into the half. Casey sent a ball through the front line, which included Hellstein and a

Please see BROWNIES, page 16

FRUWIRTH FLIES HIGH IN FIRST SEASON AT CURRY

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Former Agawam High School quarterback Kevin Fruwirth is enjoying an excellent season at Curry College, which concluded two weeks ago with a couple of strong wins.

Fruwirth’s season earned him several accolades and set conferences and school records.

Fruwirth set the New England Football Conference completion record this season. The previous record of 229 com-

pleted passes in 10 games was shattered by Fruwirth with 266 completed passes, including 23 passes completed in his final game on Nov. 3 against Plymouth State College.

Fruwirth was also in action more times than any other quarterback in the history of the conference. The record for plays was 466. Fruwirth was quarterback for 535 plays this season.

His 266 completed passes set the Curry College record as well, as did his 2,770 passing yards. Fruwirth’s 2,935 yards of total offense led the league as well.

He was an All-Division selection for
Please see FRUWIRTH, page 16



Turley Publications submitted photos

Agawam native Fruwirth set the New England Football Conference completion record this season. The previous record of 229 completed passes in 10 games was shattered by Fruwirth with 266 completed passes, including 23 passes completed in his final game on Nov. 3 against Plymouth State College.

Wheeler hits the links for Bison

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – A lot of people were buying batteries, tying down loose objects, and scrapping the shelves for food from the grocery store as they prepared for incoming Hurricane Sandy.

On Oct. 28, Kevin Wheeler, a sophomore at Nichols College and former part of the Western Massachusetts Division 1 champion Agawam High School golf team, was winning the New England Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Playing in windy conditions as the hurricane approached the area, Wheeler scored a 75, 3-over-par, and then won a playoff hole to capture the championship on Oct. 28.

Wheeler was part of the Agawam golf team for four years and had great success, including helping lead his team to a sectional championship. He moved on to Nichols and as a freshman, played well while going up against some of the best competition in the region.

“Playing college golf is not like high school,” said Wheeler. “In high school, a lot of team may have one or two exceptional players. In college, every team brings about five or six great players. The competition is very tough.”

College matches are also more like being on the professional tour as there are tournament each week instead of one-on-one team matches for nine holes.

Wheeler said he participates in several two or three day tournaments against anywhere from 10 to 25 teams involved. But the game is still the same.

“It’s still the same thing when you are put in a group of four and you go out and golf,” said Wheeler. “It’s a not hard, but it’s not easy either.”

He said golfing 18 holes instead of nine
Please see WHEELER, page 16

Storm bring home pair of championships

REGION - Congratulations to the Pioneer Valley Storm Soccer Club as they had a terrific end to a very successful fall season.

Two of their four teams finished first in their respective Premier MAPLE Divisions, along with a second-place finish for one of their other teams. The U11 boys posted an 8-1-1 record in winning their Division as they outscored their opponents 50-9 and the U14 girls “Green” team won the very difficult Division 2 title, posting a 7-0-2 record as they outscored their opposition 22-2 and earned a promotion to Division 1 for the upcoming spring season.

Additionally, the Pioneer Valley Storm Soccer Club accomplished something very special this Fall as they attained the highest win/loss percentage of all Premier Soccer Clubs (minimum of four teams) in the state of Massachusetts. Astonishingly they outscored their opponents by 84 goals as the four teams combined to score 107 goals while giving up only 23.

“Our kids work hard and we have some of the best coaches around,” said Storm president Shaun Jenks.

Shaun Jenks also noted that the Pioneer Valley Storm is offering three free training sessions for kids ages 5-10 who are interested in developing their soccer skills in an indoor training environment during the winter months of January/February/March. Visit their website (www.PioneerValleyStorm.com) to register for the free trainings and for information about their Indoor Training & Youth Academy.

The Pioneer Valley Storm also offered free soccer clinics to local communities and soccer teams this past fall as a way of giving back to the local communities and will be doing the same this coming spring as well as next fall. Visit their website for more information.



Turley Publications submitted photos

The Pioneer Valley Storm U11 boys and U14 girls “Green” team recently won their respective Premier MAPLE Divisions.



Andre places 25th at state championships



Turley Publications submitted photo

Agawam senior Mike Andre (right) came in 25th at the 2012 MIAA State Cross Country Championships, while senior teammate Ben Parzych (left) came in 77th.

NORTHFIELD - Agawam senior Mike Andre had quite the day at the 2012 MIAA State Cross Country Championships held at Northfield Mountain on Saturday, Nov. 17.

He finished in 25th place overall with a time of 16 minutes, 44.41 seconds, which was the highest placement ever by an Agawam runner at the state championships and the time was the fastest ever for an Agawam runner at the Northfield Mountain course.

The time was also among the top 100 fastest in the 30-year history of the course.

Senior Ben Parzych, who set the new Agawam course record at Robinson State Park earlier this season, came in 77th with a time of 16:45.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Booster Club calendars available
AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Golf Booster Club is selling raffle calendars for the month of November at a cost of \$5 each.

You can win more than once.

If you would like a calendar, email Rita. Oleksak@gmail.com or call 413-530-0989.

overall game of female basketball players in grades 2-12.

The clinic will be directed by head coach Kristen Patterson and assistant coach Stacy Boisvert.

Cost is \$30.

For more information about registration, contact Boisvert at 413-205-3923 or visit www.aicyellowjackets.com.

AIC basketball to host girls clinic
SPRINGFIELD – The American International College women’s basketball team will host a self-improvement clinic Sunday, Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The clinic is designed to improve the skills and

To get your organization’s information placed in the Agawam Advertiser News, contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to dforbes@turley.com.

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New ‘Tip-Off’ tourney set for Cage

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AMHERST – Curry Hicks Cage has been widely known as the place where the Western Massachusetts basketball tournaments have their big conclusions.

Teams from all over the area in all three divisions look to succeed in the regular season in order to compete for their opportunity to play in “The Cage.”

Eight teams will have the opportunity to start their regular season at Curry Hicks Cage as the venue will play host to the first-ever Pioneer Valley Tip-Off on Dec. 15 and 16.

Many small tournaments, done for charities and in honor of fallen basketball players and contributors consist of four teams in an effort to prevent disruption of the regular season schedules and maintaining league matchups.

But the tournament, which will be run by Spenser Shanman, a student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, is creating a tournament that will consist of eight teams that all see each other regularly during the season.

Amherst, Northampton, Holyoke, Cathedral, West Springfield, Chicopee, South Hadley and Agawam will be the participating schools in the single elimination tournament.

The teams will play consolation rounds to maintain the integrity of the regular season schedule and two champions will be crowned to start the regular season.

BROWNIES, from page 14

Comp defender as the last players before the goalkeeper Kelley Hiersche.

But East Longmeadow proved to be too much for Hellstein, who was among the top scorers for Agawam for the past four years, all of them as a starter.

The Brownies would finish the season at 8-9-3 after having a very successful season last year. They will look to building off some of their strong pieces, including Morgan Casey, who emerged as a scoring threat,

WHEELER, from page 14

allows more of an opportunity to gain experience.

In the championship match held at Captain’s Course in Brewster, Wheeler was coming off a pair of second place finishes, but had not won a tournament the entire season.

He was nervous heading into the match because there were high winds.

“I was confident because I had done well my last two tournaments, but I have not played well in the wind because I tend to hit the ball higher,” he said.

Wheeler was six strokes over par heading into the 15th hole. He then went on a streak, birdied the next three holes and then sat down with a 75. He said he waited more than 90 minutes before the final group fin-

Of the eight teams, South Hadley is the only team from Division 2. But they are a team that will be able to compete at the level of the other seven. South Hadley was the runner up in the Division 2 championship last year in Amherst. They fell short against Mahar Regional, which won it’s first-ever title.

During the regular season, though, South Hadley plays a very Division 1-heavy schedule.

The first round of the tournament has been creatively done to create brackets that will make two consolation rounds, one for the Hampden bracket, and one for the Hampshire bracket.

The Hampden Bracket will start on Dec. 15 at times to be determined. In the opening round, Agawam will face South Hadley while Chicopee takes on West Springfield. The Hampshire Bracket opening games will see Holyoke face Cathedral while Northampton takes on Amherst Regional.

The consolation and championship games are scheduled to take place on Sunday, Dec. 16.

Dick’s Sporting Goods, All-State Asphalts, and Five College Movers LLC are sponsors in the tournament, according to the website. More information is continuing to be released on the upcoming tournament, and anyone looking for more information can go to www.pioneervalleytipoff.com.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

and Smith, who had an excellent year in her first full year as a goalkeeper.

Agawam was strong early in the year, but struggled to score during the middle of the season. They had to win three straight games to end the year to qualify for the tournament.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

ished, and found himself in a tie.

He battled in a playoff hole, and overcame a bad tee-off to capture a par on the hole. His opponent bogeyed for Wheeler to get the win.

“It was such an awesome feeling,” said Wheeler. “He had the edge on me and I pulled it out. I have never done anything as big as that.”

The Sports Management major said he hopes to play professional golf someday, and reach the NCAA tournament during his junior and senior year.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Please see CRONIN, page 16

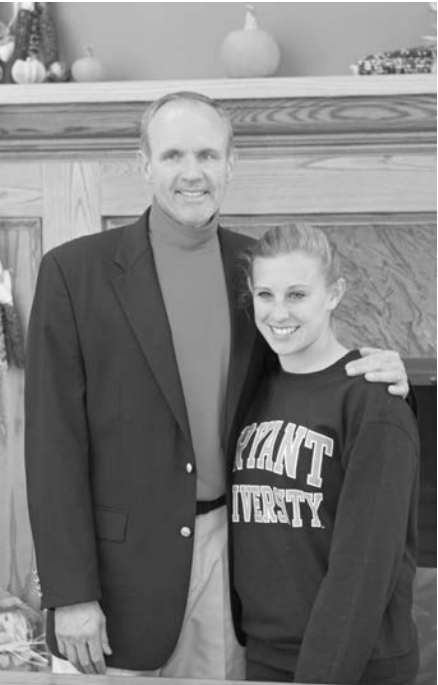
is hoping to follow along and go to Wilbraham & Monson.

As a student, Cronin is near the top of her class. Her 3.97 grade point average with a course load of honors and advanced placement courses, says it all. Her favorite classes have been English. While she has not decided upon a major yet, she plans to go the



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Carly Cronin is pictured with her parents Tom and Gina and sister Katie.



Carly Cronin also played soccer and basketball at WMA. She is shown with her soccer coach and WMA Athletics Director Don Nicholson.



Carly Cronin is shown with lacrosse coach Caroline Burke.

FRUWIRTH, from page 14

2012 as first-team quarterback and he was named the Curry College Athlete of the Week several times this season.

He was the conference Offensive Player of the Week in September, and all the accolades added up to a long series of training and work throughout the summer and the confidence his team had in him this season.

“I had a great season as an individual, and I had a great team and a lot of people who had confidence in me,” said Fruwirth, who was preparing for Thanksgiving this week.

His team went 6-4 this season and Fru-

wirth said the team just missed qualifying for a tournament due to the process of selecting teams to qualify.

He says he is very pleased with the way his team performed and this year will help the Colonels heading into next year.

“Next year, we are going to go out there and we are going to score points and win games any way we can,” said Fruwirth. “We want to win a championship.”

He says the huge year helped to build his confidence and he loves playing for Curry.

“It’s a great team atmosphere and going here has really made me a lot better as a quarterback,” said Fruwirth.

His choice to All-Division was the culmination of all his accolades this year.

“It was really humbling,” said Fruwirth. “When I was going through the season, I would have a good game and my focus would just be on improving for the next game. Now that I have had a chance to take a look back, I’m really humbled to be chosen.”

Fruwirth said he thanks his family for supporting him, former Agawam football player Bob Carrier for assisting with off-season workouts, and his quarterbacks coach at the college.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

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A LOOK BACK

AGAWAM - The Agawam boys varsity soccer team recently wrapped up its 2012 campaign. Here is a look back at the season.



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Above: Agawam's Kyle Mutti (9) pushes the ball forward.

Top right: Agawam's Steve Malerba (10) tries to play the ball between a pair of defenders.

Bottom left: Agawam's Kris Page (14) tracks the ball down as he runs toward the sideline.

Bottom right: Agawam's sean Lathrop (7) tracks the ball near the sideline.



Falcons complete weekend sweep of Admirals

NORFOLK, Va. - With standout goaltender Curtis McElhinney receiving a rare night off, Paul Dainton took advantage of his second start of the season on Saturday evening at the Norfolk Scope, making 33 saves for his first win of 2012-2013 and helping the Springfield Falcons (10-2-0-2) complete a two-game weekend sweep of the Norfolk Admirals (7-7-0-0) with a 5-2 victory.

Springfield stayed alone in first place in the Eastern Conference at 22 points by beating Norfolk for the second-straight night and third time in as many tries this season.

Dalton Smith lit the lamp for the first time since the season opener on Oct. 13, skating through the left circle toward the net and backhanding a puck by the glove of Admirals goaltender Igor Bobkov to establish a 1-0 Springfield advantage at 4:51 of the initial stanza.

The lead lasted under a minute, as Chris Wagner slid in a rebound past Dainton off a Mat Clark shot to tie the contest at 5:38, 1-1.

Springfield jumped back in front on the last of its three first-period power-play chances. John Moore picked the puck up in the right circle, skated toward the net, and snapped it past Bobkov at 19:39 for the 2-1 edge.

The Falcons built on their lead in the second period, as Tim Erixon collected a feed from Jonathan Audy-Marchessault at the blue line, skated to the slot, and drove the puck past Bobkov's stick for a 3-1 cushion at 5:29.

The Admirals closed to within one at 8:49 of the middle frame when Peter Hol-

land finished off a 2-on-1 rush by lifting a puck over Dainton's glove from the left circle, narrowing the margin to 3-2.

The early stages of the third period proved to be a back-and-forth affair, but the Falcons gained some valuable breathing room off the stick of Nick Holden. The defenseman took a puck to the left circle and slapped it past Bobkov's stick and under the crossbar for his first marker of the campaign, increasing the lead to 4-2 at 14:08.

Springfield's two-goal bubble forced Norfolk to take a chance when going on a late power play. Admirals head coach Trent Yawney pulled Bobkov to create a 6-on-4 situation. David Savard pounced on an empty-net opportunity moments later, pushing in his first goal of the campaign to clinch the 5-2 win at 16:59.

Receiving his first action in three weeks, Dainton (1-0-1) allowed only two goals on 35 shots. He has permitted just four goals on 73 attempts in two appearances in 2012-2013.

Bobkov (3-4-0) set aside 25 of 29 Falcons bids.

The Falcons have earned points in nine of the last 10 games (7-1-0-2) and have given their opponents little to work with offensively all season. Saturday's game marked the 13th of 14 outings in which Springfield limited a foe to two goals or less during regulation. The Falcons team goals-against average is 1.64, as Springfield gave up just six opposition tallies on the three-game road swing this week.

Falcons handed rare regulation defeat by Penguins

The Falcons succumbed in regulation for just the second time in 12 games in 2012-2013 on Wednesday night at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, as their comeback bid came up short in a 2-1 loss to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (7-6-0-0).

The defeat ended Springfield's three-game winning streak and marked the first time in eight outings that the Falcons did not collect a point.

After recording shutouts in each of their last two games, Springfield carried a streak of over 160 minutes without allowing a goal toward the halfway point of Wednesday's contest. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's Beau Bennett snapped the Falcons' perfect run, one-timing a Riley Holzapfel feed in from the left circle at 8:20 of the second to put the Penguins up, 1-0. The Falcons' shutout streak ended at 166 minutes and 40 seconds, as Springfield relinquished the opening goal for the first time since the season debut on Oct. 13 (11 games) and trailed for the first instance since Oct. 27 (six contests).

Bennett fired in a rebound from the left side off a long Holzapfel shot at 15:28 of the middle frame, giving the Penguins a 2-0 lead and handing the Falcons their first multi-goal deficit since Oct. 20 in a 3-1 loss to Providence (eight games).

The Falcons tried to chisel into the Penguins' two-goal advantage, peppering Wilkes-Barre/Scranton goaltender Jeff Zatkoff with 23 shots over the final 40 minutes after posting only three attempts in the initial stanza. Tomas Kubalik redirected a Holden shot into the net from the slot with 1:43 remaining in the game,

narrowing the Penguins' edge to 2-1. The Falcons could draw no closer, however, as they experienced their first road loss of 2012-2013.

Reigning CCM/AHL Player of the Week McElhinney (8-2-1) stopped 30 of 32 shots, as his personal shutout streak ceased at 166 minutes and six seconds. Zatkoff (5-5-0) made 26 saves in the win.

The Falcons return home for "Movember Night presented by Baystate Health" on Saturday, Nov. 24 against the Manchester Monarchs at 7 p.m. The first 1,000 fans into the building that night will receive mustaches as part of an effort to generate awareness of prostate cancer and other male illnesses.

Bid now on Falcons Hometown Heroes jerseys

Falcons fans can bid now on game-worn jerseys from the club's 2-0 victory over the Connecticut Whale on Hometown Heroes Night presented by MGM Springfield, which took place at the MassMutual Center on Friday, Nov. 9.

The jerseys of McElhinney, Matt Calvert, Dalton Prout, and Savard are currently up for auction. This American-flag style jersey is decorated with stars and stripes on the sleeves, front, and back of the sweater to commemorate the theme of last week's game.

Fans can access the auction through the Falcons' eBay store, available by clicking here.

Additional jersey auctions from Hometown Heroes Night will be announced at a later date.

Families

On the shelf at the Agawam Public Library...

Adult Drop-In Sit and Knit with instructor Sandy Ellis - Sandy Ellis returns on the first Tuesday of the month, from December through May, to teach new techniques and assist with knitting problems. Adult Drop-In Sit and Knit meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the library. No registration is necessary.

eReaders and Libraries: What You Need To Know With Cynthia Laino – Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. Cynthia Laino returns for a repeat performance to explain the ins and out of digital services and how to borrow electronic materials from the library. Highlights of the event will be browsing the digital books website, OverDrive products and compatible eReaders, downloading the proper software and transferring items to an eReader and time questions and answers. To register, call the library at 789-1550 ext. 4 or online at www.agawamlibrary.org.

Author talk with Michael Tourville ~ Author of “A Promise To Astrid” – Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. – “A Promise to Astrid” is

Tourville’s first book, a true story based on a personal experience that continues to unfold today. The story rotates around a woman with a unique gift and a greater purpose that was not immediately evident. When a car accident leaves a family in a predicament, their elderly neighbor, Astrid, comes into the picture and everything changes. She seems to have all the answers and promptly sets her plan into action. With wisdom, intuition and maybe a little help from above, she makes everything turn out right. But that is only the beginning. To register, call the library at 789-1550 ext. 4 or register online at www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this event.

Adult Drop-In Yoga Class –Due to the holiday, this month’s yoga class with William Clarke of Second Wind Yoga in Agawam will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Beginning in January through May, the class will resume on the last Tuesday of each month. No registration is necessary.

AHS grad completes deployment

Navy Seaman Joseph A. St. John, a 2007 graduate of Agawam High School, along with 500 Sailors and Marines assigned to the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group (CSG) recently arrived in Norfolk, Va., following a seven-and-a-half-month deployment supporting operations in the Mediterranean and the Arabian Seas.

USS Enterprise’s return to Norfolk is the 25th and final homecoming in her 51 years of distinguished service. The aircraft carrier is scheduled to be inactivated Dec. 1, in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station.

While deployed, Enterprise CSG served in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility (AOR), conducting maritime secu-

riety operations, theater security cooperation efforts and missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During her 238 days away from Norfolk, “Big E, “ as Enterprise is affectionately known, safely steamed 80, 968 miles and Carrier Air Wing 1 (CVW-1) flew more than 8, 000 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and exercises in the 5th and 6th Fleet AORs.

The December inactivation ceremony will be the last official public event for Enterprise, and will serve as a celebration of life for the ship and the more than 100,000 Sailors who have served aboard the ship.

NEWLY MINTED LIONESS



Turley Publications courtesy photo.

New members installed at the Nov. 5 meeting of the Agawam Lioness Club include, from left, Susan Strcharz, Pat Murphy, Bonnie Waters, Bernice Fortunato and Carol Robidoux. The Lioness Club is active in raising money to support many charitable organizations and funding for three scholarships awarded to Agawam High School graduating seniors. For more information on the Lioness Club, contact Mickey Bandarra 786-1397.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, December 10, 2012 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Joseph Valenti, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7, Paragraphs A & B of the Town of Agawam’s Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for an addition to a structure with less than the required front setback and rear yard at the premises identified as 1 Cooper Street.
Doreen Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
11/22, 11/29/12

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:50 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Desmond for property located on Main Street.
By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
11/22/12

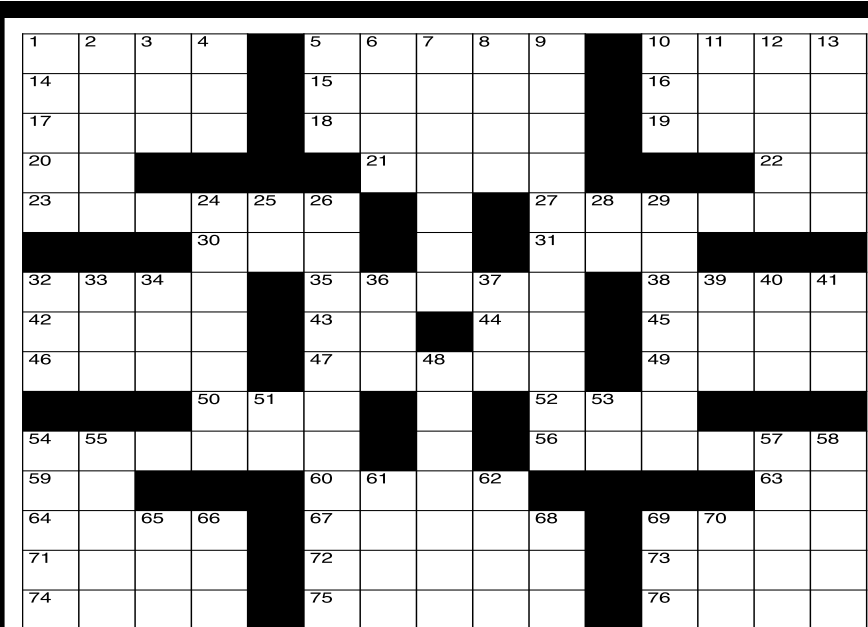
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD12P2121EA Estate of: Robert G Dionne Date of Death: 02/22/2000 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Linda E Dionne** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
And also requesting that: **Linda E Dionne** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 12/11/2012
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice

to you.
The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2012
Thomas P Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate
11/22/12

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:30 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Randolph for property located on Valley Brook Road.
By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
11/22/12

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:40 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Tisdell for property located on Woodcock Court.
By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
11/22



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Messages
 - 5. Automaton
 - 10. The side that goes last
 - 14. Lowest female voice
 - 15. Roar of acclaim
 - 16. Tennis’ Kournikova
 - 17. Canute (alt. sp.)
 - 18. Blind gut
 - 19. Insures bank’s depositors
 - 20. Cathode (abbr.)
 - 21. Appendage
 - 22. Of I
 - 23. The reciprocal of cosine
 - 27. Rubs away
 - 30. Bravo!
 - 31. Crash into
 - 32. Radioactivity units
 - 35. Dynasty’s “J.R.”
 - 38. Components specified individually
 - 42. Facial skin disease
 - 43. The Peach State
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Display stands
 - 2. Forearm bones
 - 44. Exist
 - 45. Precipitation
 - 46. Mazzard
 - 47. Earthy pigment color
 - 49. Hail (nautical)
 - 50. Back
 - 52. Deviating from the familiar
 - 54. Inveighed
 - 56. Within reach
 - 59. Blood group
 - 60. Howl
 - 63. Farm state
 - 64. Aba _____ Honeymoon
 - 67. Seizure
 - 69. College army
 - 71. Graphic symbol
 - 72. Intense trepidation
 - 73. Of an ode
 - 74. Capital of Shaanxi Province
 - 75. Acid + alcohol - water
 - 76. Flat tableland
- 3. British thermal unit
 - 4. Drunkard
 - 5. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
 - 6. Pitcher Hershisier
 - 7. Rod-shaped bacterium
 - 8. Egg
 - 9. Dancing With the Stars host
 - 10. British Air Force
 - 11. Opposite of beginning
 - 12. Zanzibar Copal
 - 13. Running contests
 - 24. Arms factory
 - 25. Sodium
 - 26. Current
 - 28. Ancient Egyptian sun god
 - 29. Former Hess Corp. name
 - 32. Scrap of cloth
 - 33. Highest card
 - 34. Double helix nucleic acid
 - 36. WW2 female corps
 - 37. One point E of due N
 - 39. Express pleasure
 - 40. Data executive
 - 41. Honey (abbr.)
 - 48. One’s usual environment
 - 51. Edison’s company
 - 53. Delaware
 - 54. Base of a system of numbers
 - 55. Ancient computing devices
 - 57. African adder genus
 - 58. Podocarpus coriaceous
 - 61. Plural of 33 down
 - 62. An enticement
 - 65. Tropical constrictor
 - 66. “Birdie” star _____Margaret
 - 68. Sirius Satellite Radio (abbr.)
 - 69. Memory hardware
 - 70. Lyric poem

Obituaries & Church News

ROBERT D. GROSS

Robert “Bob” Gross, 59, of Spring, Texas, formerly of Feeding Hills, passed away Oct. 25, 2012. Bob was born Oct. 27, 1952, in Lakewood, Colo. to Peggy Gross and the late Darrell Gross. He attended Lakewood, Colo. schools and entered the Navy upon graduation from high school. After his tour of duty with the Navy, Bob entered the Coast Guard and retired from there June 21, 1991. He then went to work as a civilian employee at Westover Air Force base with the base police department. Soon after retiring from Westover, he moved to Spring, Texas. Bob will be sadly missed by his four children, Brian Gross of Agawam, Catie Chaffee and her husband Jimmy of Springfield, Bryan Dudley and his wife Cheryl of Spring, Texas, and Jennifer Dudley of Florida. The funeral will be Nov. 23 at the Mass. Veterans Cemetery in Agawam at 11 a.m. Donations in



Bob’s memory may be made to any veterans organization.

SHIRLEY STACK

Shirley (Young) Stack, 70, of Agawam, entered into eternal rest Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012 at home. Born in Hartford, Conn., daughter of the late Edward Young, she lived in Agawam since 1971. Shirley worked in the accounting department for Young International for many years. She also attended St. John the Evangelist Church. She leaves two sons, Angelo V. Stack, Jr. of Feeding Hills, and Anthony N. and his wife Nicole Stack of Springfield; a daughter and her husband, Jacqueline M. and Joseph Mikalson of Agawam; her mother, Mary (Smalley) Young of Windsor Locks; a brother, Edward Young of New London; a sister, Mary Anne Seitz of Windsor Locks; five grandchildren, Alexis, Alayna, Olivia, Joey, and Jake; and nieces and nephews. The funeral was from the Agawam Funeral Home, with a Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church. The burial was private.



Advent retreat open to the public

“The Message of Christmas Through its Carols,” an Advent retreat with Fr. Vernon Decoteau, will be held Thursday, Dec. 6 at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, located at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration with coffee and pastries will begin at 9 a.m., morning prayer at 9:30 a.m., and Fr. Vernon’s presentation at 10 a.m., after which Mass will be celebrated and lunch will be served.

The cost of the day is \$15 and includes

lunch. All registrations must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 4. Registration with payment should be mailed to Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

For more information or to register, call Jean Raczkowski, pastoral minister, at (413) 786-8200 ext 16 or email j.raczkowski@sacredheartfeedinghills.org. The public is welcome.

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www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com
Pastor Earl E. Eisenbach

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service. Pastor Earl and his wife Barbara are always available for prayer after the service.
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AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
459 Mills St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
agawamumc@gmail.com
agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.
Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.
AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of Praise: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Service (Family Night): 7 p.m.
Sunday Evening Contemporary Service: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION
50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com
Church Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhcuccoffice@verizon.net
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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
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Worship Service 10 a.m.
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
760 Main St., Agawam
Agawambc@localnet.com
www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45
Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net
www.stdavidsgawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnnevanglistchurch.org
www.stjohnnevanglistchurch.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday - Communion Service



In Remembrance
To submit an obituary or to place a remembrance ad, contact us at

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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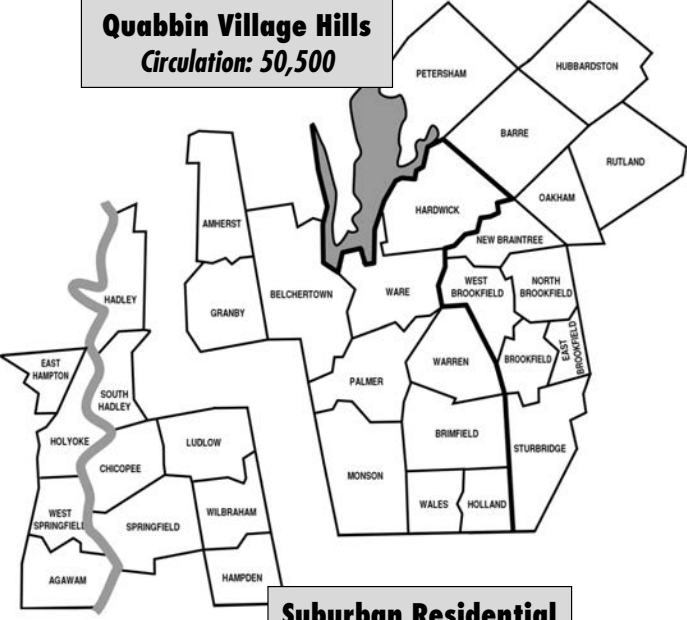
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508-867-2727

Alan Varnum

508-849-7332

Cynthia Kingdon

774-200-7964

Jeff Toppin

413-348-0518

Cheryl

508-523-0114

Kaczmarski

508-331-9031

Bruce Martin

508-596-0209

Joe Chenevert

Kathy Hosley

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MAINE HUNT. CAMP. Invest. 165+/-acres with interior roads. Only \$84,900. I can finance. Owner **207-942-0058**.

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DASAP.MHVILLAGE.COM **WALES, ROUTE 19**, 2 bedrooms, \$30's, 14'x68', air, double oven, center isle, pantry, some appliances, patio, deck, 55+ **(413)593-9961**

For Rent

2 FAMILY 1st floor 925 sq ft 1 bathroom 2 bedrooms, large dining room. Washer and dryer hookup, also has stove and fridge, no pets. 1st last and security. \$775.00 **(413)204-2159**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE

advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

CHICOPEE NOW RENTING

single rooms, 2nd & 3rd floor, kitchen and bath privileges, Includes all utilities. Call Frank **(413)210-8874**.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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- near Ct., 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath updated, finished basement, 1 car garage \$1,700 **413-567-6678** or **413-695-6678**.

INDIAN ORCHARD 3

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w/ private patio, off-street parking, storage area, laundry on premises, appliances, utilities not included. No pets or smoking \$550- 1st, last, security & references. **(413)267-4042**.

MONSON: 1st floor, 1 bedroom,

electric heat, washer/dryer hook-up, \$600 + utilities 1st, last required. **(413)267-0246**.

PALMER 2ND FL,

one bedroom, kitchen, office, livingroom. Free heat & hot water. Nice. No pets \$800/ mo. No smoking. Storage. **(508)637-1520**

For Rent

PALMER DUPLEX TWO large bedrooms, 1.5 baths, central air, large yard, balcony, cathedral ceilings, \$950/ month no utilities. No pets. Available 1-15-2013 Call **(413)433-1647**

PALMER ONE BEDROOM.

1st fl hot water included \$525/mo. Convenient location. No pets. **(413)596-6286**.

PALMER THREE RIVERS.

Country Manor apartments, 2 bdrm, \$730 month. All units renov. w/disposal, dishwashers, micro-wave, elec. range, carpets. Parking, fishing and playground. Cats okay. Call **(413)283-9472**.

PALMER. LG. STUDIO.

Laundry on premises, off-street parking, w/w carpeting, quiet, convenient location. **(413)454-1201**.

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Commercial Rentals

CHICOPEE STORE FRONT for rent on busy street, 810 sq. ft., 1st & last required. Call Frank **(413)210-8874**.

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

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cargo van- new tires & rims, many new parts, runs great, needs some body work & TLC \$2,000 or B.O. **(413)323-7398**.

Autos Wanted

\$\$\$ AUTOS WANTED TOP Dollar paid for your unwanted cars, trucks, vans, big and small, running or not. Call **413-534-5400**.

CASH FOR CARS:

Any make, model or year. We pay more! Running or not. Sell your car or truck today. Free towing! Instant offer: **1-800-871-0654**.

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GENERAL TAGALONG TRAILER - 15 ton w/air brakes. Good shape. New wood. 15 foot deck. \$2,800.00. Call **(413)267-3240**.

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